

Attorney's Docket No. 1948-4758
Serial No. 09/914,974
Reply to the final Office Action dated September 24, 2003,
and Advisory Action mailed March 5, 2004

REMARKS

This Amendment is accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). The above amendments and following remarks are responsive to all the points of rejection raised by the Examiner in the final Office Action dated September 24, 2003, and Advisory Action dated March 5, 2004. Upon entry of this paper, claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8 and 9 are amended, and claims 10-12 are added. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Entry and consideration of the Amendment are respectfully requested.

Response To Rejections Under § 102:

In the Office Action, claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sato (U.S. Patent No. 5,816,680). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the following reasons.

The present invention as recited in claims 1, 8 and 9 teaches a plurality of reflective sub-areas with reflective surfaces for reflecting light beams that are obliquely oriented with respect to each other, in different average directions and with different spreading characteristics, which are features not disclosed by Sato.

In Fig.1 of Sato, the reflective sub-areas noted by the Examiner are described in the specification as step-like reflective areas comprised of both reflective (e.g. 26A3 and 26A4) and non-reflective (22A) sub-surfaces. Thus, each reflective surface is separated from the other by a non-reflective surface. If one considers only the reflective surfaces as claimed, the reflective surfaces in Sato appear to be parallel to each other. This point is further supported at Col. 3,

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lines 13-27 and Col. 6, lines 35-44 of the specification. Specifically, Sato states that the light reflected by the reflective surfaces 26A1-26A5, 26B1, 26B2 is radiated as parallel light beams toward the front of the reflector 16. To this end, Sato does not appear to teach or suggest a plurality of reflective surfaces reflecting light beams that are obliquely oriented with respect to each other, in different average directions or with different spreading characteristics.

Furthermore, Sato does not appear to teach or suggest a deposition of sub-areas along a row as recited in claim 5, or reflective surfaces that are contiguous as recited in claims 10-12. Instead, as noted above, the reflective surfaces in Sato are designed in a step-like fashion with each reflective surface separated by a non-reflective surface. Thus, the reflective surfaces appear to be neither in a row nor contiguous.

Accordingly, claims 1, 8 and 9 are believed to be distinguishable over Sato at least for the reasons noted above. Likewise, claims 2-7 and 10-12 are also believed to be distinguishable over Sato based on their dependency from claims 1, 8 and 9, respectively.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the above amendments and arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated or rendered moot. Thus, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and as such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of this application.

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AUTHORIZATIONS

Two checks in the amount of \$770.00 and \$840.00 each are enclosed to cover the fees for filing the RCE and an extension of time, respectively. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this filing to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1948-4758. Likewise, any overpayment is credited to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1948-4758.

Respectfully submitted,
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By:



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